

PRESS RELEASE

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**Jump\$tart Coalition to Honor Congresswoman
Eddie Bernice Johnson for Financial Literacy Efforts**

WASHINGTON, March 24, 2009...Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) has been named the 2009 “Federal Legislator of the Year” by the Jump\$tart Coalition® for Personal Financial Literacy. The award will be presented at the not-for-profit organization’s annual awards dinner, which will be held at the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel, starting at 7:30 on April 1. The prestigious federal legislator award recognizes a member of Congress who has made substantial contributions to the promotion of financial literacy for students and young adults.

Other awards to be presented during the event include the State Coalition of the Year, which this year will be presented to Tennessee. The coveted Odom Award will go to Barbara M. O’Neil, Ph.D., with the Cooperative Extension at Rutgers University, for her long-time, “visionary” commitment to financial literacy. In addition, the national poster contest winner of Jump\$tart national partner National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) will be presented during this year’s dinner. The winner of the contest is Leah Ellyson, an 11th grade student at North Marion High School in Farmington, West Virginia.

“I am honored to receive this award,” Congresswoman Johnson said. “In my thirty years as a legislator, I’ve fought to ensure that education—including personal financial education—is on top of the legislative agenda. I firmly believe that our young people are the most vital resource our country has.”

Representative Johnson represents the 30th District of Texas, which encompasses a large portion of the city of Dallas. Her nomination noted a number of legislative accomplishments, including her amendment to the *Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007*, which was designed to give participants the education needed to purchase and keep their homes. In addition, Johnson introduced the *National Financial Literacy Act*, which allows banking institutions to receive Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) credit for offering financial literacy programs in the communities they serve.

“I’m so pleased with these award winners,” Neil Milner, chairman of the Jump\$tart Coalition noted. “The caliber and dedication of these individuals to our nation’s students is truly inspirational. They truly represent the best we have to offer.”

About Jump\$tart: The Jump\$tart Coalition is a Washington, DC-based not-for-profit organization that seeks to improve the personal financial literacy of students in kindergarten through college. It is mentioned prominently each year in Congressional resolutions proclaiming April “Financial Literacy for Youth” Month. The coalition has grown to include more than 180 national partners and 48 affiliated state coalitions. One of its premier services is the Jump\$tart Personal Finance Clearinghouse, which lists more than 750 titles of financial literacy materials available for all and can be found at [.jumpstartclearinghouse.org](http://jumpstartclearinghouse.org).